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After popular eatery goes to cops, hoteliers reveal instances of miscreants staging videos, making false allegations to blackmail and extort money from them are becoming worryingly common

CAFE NOIR

Under pressure, hospitality sector relies on recording spurious interactions

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A pattern of harassment and extortion threats targeting cafés and restaurants in the city is causing growing alarm within the hospitality sector. Many hoteliers say they are being forced to quietly record evidence, lodge silent complaints, or at times even ignore incidents altogether, fearing that any public controversy could permanently damage their brand reputation.

False allegations, staged videos, and intimidation tactics have become familiar threats, say business owners, used by individuals looking to extract money or gain leverage by defaming popular food establishments.

"Even if we know it's staged, most of us don't react openly. The fear is, once the name is out in public for the wrong reason, there's no going back," a hotelier told BM on condition of anonymity. "We've started recording everything, conversations, CCTV footage, even phone calls, just to protect ourselves in case something goes wrong."

This growing anxiety was thrust into the spotlight after a blackmail attempt at The Rameshwaram Café's Kempegowda International Airport outlet on Thursday.

A group of five to seven individuals allegedly created a commotion, claiming a cockroach was found

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Even if we know it's staged, most of us don't react openly. We fear that once the name is out in public for the wrong reason, there's no going back —Restaurateur

ADD TO CART

In the age of instant delivery, Bengaluru's traditional door-to-door services still holding ground

PAGE 9

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Talk to an expert

THINGS TO DO

01 Creative reflections

Experience a curated video screening featuring nine artists sharing their creative journeys and processes during the COVID-19 lockdown, presented by NGMA Bengaluru in collaboration with Ananya Drishya. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art; When: August 1, 5.30 pm**

02 Virtual escapade

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall presents Thrillscape, a cutting-edge digital adventure zone packed with VR rides, holograms, and AR games. Dive into next-gen entertainment designed to thrill visitors of all ages. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Ongoing**

03 Craft showcase

The Crafts Council of Karnataka, with Project Tarasha & Creative Dignity, presents Kuteera 2025—a vibrant exhibition and sale featuring handcrafted textiles, jewellery, and more by 39 artisans from across India. **Where: Galleries 3 & 4, Chitrakala Parishath; When: August 2–6, | 10.30 am – 7.30 pm**

04 Book talk

Join author Manjul Bajaj in conversation with Sumaa Tekur at Urban Solace as she discusses her latest book "Once Upon a Summer"—an evening of stories, conversation, and connection. Entry is free. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul; When: August 1, 7 pm – 9 pm**

05 Conscious couture

Explore ethically crafted clothing, accessories, and home accents at Pause for a Cause – Varamahalakshmi Edit, featuring designers who blend tradition with contemporary flair. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: July 29–30, 11am – 7 pm**

Global oil price falls, but B'luru still feels the pinch

Despite falling global oil prices, retail fuel rates remain high in Bengaluru, frustrating commuters, transporters, and small businesses already burdened by rising costs

Petrol at ₹102.92, diesel at ₹90.99 per litre and CNG at ₹89.00 per kg make Bengaluru the 9th costliest city in India for fuel

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As global crude oil prices continue their downward trend, demands for fuel price cuts are rising across India — with Bengalureans leading the call. Despite the sustained fall in international rates, retail fuel prices in Karnataka's capital remain high, prompting growing frustration among daily commuters, transport operators, and small business owners.

Crude drops, but relief still distant

According to data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC), the Indian basket of crude oil has seen a consistent decline. The average price for FY 2025–26 (up to July 17) stands at $67.87 per barrel, compared to $78.56 in FY 2024–25 and $93.15 in FY 2022–23. However, this drop hasn't benefited consumers yet.

In Bengaluru, petrol is priced at ₹102.92 per litre and diesel at ₹90.99, making it the 9th costliest city in India for both fuels. Cities like Amaravati, Hyderabad, and Thiruvananthapuram top the list with even higher prices, but Bengalureans are feeling the pinch all the same, especially given the city's heavy vehicular density and growing living costs.

'Where's the relief?' Ask Bengalureans

Many residents feel betrayed by the lack of price correction. "It's disheartening. Crude oil is nearly $25 cheaper than it was two years ago, but we're still paying above ₹100 for petrol," said Ashok Ramesh, an IT professional who commutes from Yelahanka to Whitefield daily. "We keep hearing about falling global prices, but where is the benefit for the common man?" Phaneesh M, a cab driver with a popular ride-hailing service, echoed the sentiment: "Fuel costs eat into our earnings. If the Centre or State wants to help working-class people, they must act now. We are still reeling from the inflation of the last few years."

> **"There's a window for the Union government to cut excise duty, or at least urge states to lower VAT. Otherwise, public anger could reflect in the ballot**
> – Senior policy analyst, Bengaluru-based think tank

VAT keeps prices high

A key reason for the high fuel prices is Karnataka's taxation policy. On petrol, the state levies a VAT of ₹22.73 per litre, placing it 7th among Indian states. Only Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra collect higher VAT per litre.

On diesel, Karnataka imposes a VAT of ₹15.45 per litre, making it 9th in the country. Andhra Pradesh again tops the chart at ₹21.56, followed by Kerala and Telangana. These taxes significantly inflate the final price at fuel stations.

Transport and retail sector impacted

The high diesel rates are especially concerning for businesses. "Every price hike in diesel impacts our entire supply chain," said S Srinivas, who runs a mid-sized FMCG distribution company in Rajajinagar. "Freight costs go up, margins shrink, and eventually consumers suffer. If crude is cheaper, there's no reason diesel should cost ₹91."

Political pressure mounting

With major state elections around the corner in several parts of India, including southern states, political observers believe there could be some fuel price relief in the coming months. "There's a window for the Union government to cut excise duty, or at least urge states to lower VAT. Otherwise, public anger could reflect in the ballot," said a senior policy analyst at a Bengaluru-based think tank.

"As oil prices cool globally, the heat is now on both the Centre and Karnataka government to ease the burden on citizens. Unless action is taken soon, the growing gap between international trends and domestic retail fuel pricing may lead to greater economic stress and political backlash", Karthik K, a college student.

SSLC reform draws mixed reactions statewide

A major debate has erupted over the Karnataka government's proposal to reduce the SSLC (Class 10) pass percentage from 35% to 33%. The move, outlined in draft examination reforms, aims to align the state board with CBSE standards. Currently, students must score 35% overall, but internal assessments are only partially credited. For example, even if a student scores 20/20 in internal evaluation, only 7 marks are counted toward the final result, requiring at least 29% in the written exam. The new proposal recommends giving full credit for internal marks, easing the pressure on students. The draft policy is now open to public feedback before being officially implemented by the education department.

Supporters of the move, especially private educational institutions, view this as a progressive step that eliminates the disparity between CBSE and state board standards. They argue it brings relief to students and creates a level playing field. "We welcome the government's decision to finally consider internal assessment marks in SSLC results after two years of sustained advocacy. We also urge a reduction in syllabus load in social science subjects," said Chidananda Patil, State Vice President, Karnataka Secondary Teachers' Association.

However, education experts have voiced strong concerns, calling the move regressive and detrimental to academic standards. "This reflects educational bankruptcy. Reducing the pass mark to 33% mirrors a colonial benchmark set in 1858 during British rule. It feels like we're going back 200 years," said V P Niranjanaradhya, a prominent educationist and policy researcher. **— BMB**

KEA releases mock allotment for UG courses

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Friday released the mock seat allotment results for the first round of counselling for admissions to professional courses including medical, dental, engineering, and allied health sciences.

Candidates can check their results through the official KEA website using the link provided. Executive Director of KEA, H Prasanna, informed that the mock allotment results have been published based on the preferences filled by eligible candidates and in accordance with merit and reservation norms.

The mock allotment covers courses such as MBBS, BDS, UGCET, NEET-based courses like engineering, agriculture sciences, veterinary sciences, B Sc Nursing, B Pharm, Pharm-D, BPT, BPO, and allied health sciences. The options entered by candidates until 6 pm on July 22 have been considered for this mock round.

However, courses like Unani, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Yoga, and Homeopathy have not been included in the mock allotment due to the unavailability of the seat matrix. Once the seat matrix for these courses is received, candidates will be given an opportunity to enter their preferences, KEA clarified.

Candidates will be allowed to add, delete, reorder, or modify their options between July 26 and July 29 based on the mock allotment results. The provisional seat allotment result for the first round will be announced on August 1 at 11 am, followed by the final seat allotment result on August 2 at 2 pm. Selected candidates can exercise their choice of seat from August 4 to August 7.

KEA also mentioned that candidates who have not entered their preferences so far can still participate by paying a fee of ₹750 and submitting their options. However, once the deadline for the first-round passes, candidates will not be permitted to enter preferences for subsequent rounds. KEA urged aspirants to verify details such as seat availability and course fees and finalise their choices for colleges and courses accordingly. **— BMB**

‘Treated like criminal for feeding dogs’

Citizen alleges harassment and police intimidation for feeding community dogs; animal activists say such incidents reflect widespread ignorance of feeding rights

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A citizen has alleged that he was harassed and intimidated late Tuesday night while feeding community dogs on Ashoka Road, claiming that the police, instead of offering protection, participated in the harassment.

According to Aaron Mascarenhas, at around 1 am, six men, accompanied by personnel from the Hoysala police patrol, banged on his gate, shouting and demanding that he come out. “The noise disturbed the entire neighbourhood. Several neighbours came rushing out, startled by the chaos,” he said.

The confrontation reportedly stemmed from him feeding two community dogs that live in a shared passage on Ashoka Road. “I have been feeding these dogs for four years with permission from one of the property owners. The passage does not belong to those objecting,” he explained.

Aaron alleged that the man leading the group had previously drawn complaints from other residents for nuisance behaviour. “These individuals have openly expressed hatred towards dogs in the past

and even threatened to poison them,” he added.

Aaron alleged that the Hoysala personnel used verbal slurs, refused to hear her side of the story, and wrongly accused him of trespassing. “They demanded an apology and told me never to set foot on Ashoka Road again, saying, ‘If you love dogs so much, take them to Cox Town Circle and feed them there,’” he recounted. Aaron feeds the dog from around 9 pm to 10 pm. Only on that day, since he was late, he fed the dogs around 11 pm.

The resident claimed that the officers appeared misinformed about animal welfare laws and feeding rights. He further stated that he was prevented from recording the incident. “I was surrounded, intimidated, and treated like a criminal for feeding dogs,” he said.

Aaron, in a social media post, stated, “It was clear that the cops were completely misinformed, with zero knowledge of animal welfare laws and feeding rights. This is nothing short of harassment, misuse of power, and wilful ignorance of the law. This kind of abuse must be called out, not just for me, but for every feeder, every voiceless animal, and everyone trying to do good in a hostile world. Please come forward and show some solidarity as animal people, in what’s meant to be an animal-friendly community.”

Under Section 351 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, threatening or intimidating individuals for keeping pets or feeding street dogs amounts to criminal intimidation (non-cognizable).

“These furkids are in a residential area. No one ever lets them into carparks for shelter. All gates are closed. They are so hungry, they are happy to eat in the pouring rain. We feed them on the road. Muneeshwara layout, Kodichikkanalli, Bomanahalli zone. We go late at night, 2 am or 3 am. We finish all our work and go when there is the least movement of humans. This is a classic issue faced by feeders and community dogs,” says Nirmala Aravamudhan, an Animal activist.

She further explained, “There is no rule that prohibits feeding dogs. Many feeders face threats, but if any residents have an issue, they should file a formal complaint or obtain a court order preventing dog feeding.” She added that they usually avoid feeding during the daytime or evening hours, as many people, including those who are afraid of dogs or pregnant women, may be around. “We make sure not to cause harm or make anyone feel unsafe while we feed,” she said.

“Recently, we had a similar experience, when someone started recording us without our permission. Although I didn’t initially file a complaint, the person later shared the video in their WhatsApp group, sparking a wave of hate speech against us. We then went to the station and lodged an NCR against him and the RWA members involved,” Nirmala shared.

Nirmala stressed, “Striking a rapport with the police is very important for feeders. Knowing the rules is also important. In our case, the police officer’s words were truly apt; he clarified to the complainant who had called 112 that we weren’t doing anything offensive, as we were simply feeding community dogs on a public road.”

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Advertorial

A Woman of Compassion, Commitment, and Community Transformation

Lakshmi Aruna Janardhana Reddy honoured for her exemplary social service initiatives at Global Achievers & Honour 2025

Lakshmi Aruna Janardhana Reddy was felicitated with the Global Achievers & Honour 2025 award at an event organised by Vijay Karnataka in Malaysia. The ceremony witnessed the presence of former Malaysian Minister Datuk Seri S.K Devamany, MAPS Group founder Datuk M.A.P. Segarran, Deepak Saluja (CEO, Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror), and VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli

Lakshmi Aruna Janardhana Reddy has emerged as an inspiring force in the realm of social service through her relentless dedication to running an old-age home, a residential school for children with special needs, and various other people-centric initiatives.

Under the leadership of Shri. Janardhana Reddy, MLA, Gangavathi Constituency & Ex Minister, Smt Lakshmi Aruna is successfully running Smt Rukminamma Changa Reddy Memorial Old Age Home, named in memory of her in-laws. The facility is equipped with a meditation hall, a library, and essential amenities, along with regular health check-ups to ensure the well-being of the residents.

A residential special school for mentally and physically challenged children is also being run under the same trust, housing over 250 children. Trained educators provide sessions in art, sports, physiotherapy, and speech therapy. The institution’s excellence has gone global—its children have not only participated in an international swimming competition in Sri Lanka but also brought home gold medals. Remarkably, two special children from the school passed the 10th standard, making it a proud milestone.

Since 2001, Lakshmi Aruna has been organizing mass marriage events that have facilitated the union of over 50,000 couples.

Empowerment of women remains close to her heart—regular vocational training programmes in embroidery, tailoring, and painting are conducted to make women financially independent. Additionally, she has organized more than 30 free eye check-up camps, benefitting over 200 individuals with timely treatment and care.

Through her organization Vishwa Bharati Kala Niketan, she has been at the forefront of promoting art and culture. The foundation has provided prosthetic limbs to over 30,000 individuals to date. Her dedication extends to animal welfare too, as she efficiently manages well-maintained goshalas (cow shelters).

Making Waves in Politics Too

Lakshmi Aruna Janardhana Reddy has also made her mark in the political landscape. She contested the recent Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections from Ballari. Though she faced defeat, her connection with the people remains strong. She continues to stay closely involved with the community and is always ready to lend a helping hand.

“This honour comes with greater responsibility. It motivates me to do more for society. I am proud that my work has been recognised beyond politics

– Smt. Lakshmi Aruna Janardhana Reddy,
President, Vishwa Bharathi Kalanikethana, Sri Rukminamma Changareddy Memorial Old Age Home & Residential School for Differently-Abled Children, Ballari

BBMP restructure plan sparks confusion, civic concerns rise

From Yelahanka to East's IT belt, proposed corporations highlight revenue imbalance and urban growth—prompting calls for better planning and inclusive implementation

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Brand Bengaluru report flags major property tax revenue gaps among proposed civic bodies

Bengaluru plans to evolve into five corporations, questions remain over fairness, functionality, and whether this administrative overhaul truly serves the city's growing needs

The Karnataka government's recent draft notification to establish five new municipal corporations in the Greater Bengaluru area—Bengaluru North, South, East, West, and Central—has triggered confusion and criticism. Many assembly constituencies have been split across these corporations, raising concerns among public representatives and citizens alike about administrative overlap and inefficiency.

Overlapping constituencies, divided wards

Bengaluru Urban district currently has 28 Assembly constituencies, of which 27 fall within BBMP limits. The Singasandra ward in Anekal, once part of BBMP, is excluded in the new draft. The five proposed corporations are drawn from BBMP's 197 wards, but several wards and constituencies are now split across jurisdictions. For example, Mahadevapura spans East and South corporations, while Yeshwanthpur, Padmanabhanagar, and Rajarajeshwari Nagar fall under both West and South. Dasarahalli is now divided between the North and West corporations.

A Civic activist said, "This has administrative implications. Ward-level divisions do not align neatly with constituency boundaries, making governance more complex. In elections for mayor and deputy mayor, MLAs may have voting rights in more than one corporation. Allocation of development funds may also see disputes, and citizens could face bureaucratic hurdles in availing public services."

Revenue disparity predicted

The Brand Bengaluru Task Force report, based on projected 2025 property tax collections, highlights a major revenue imbalance among the proposed corporations. The East Corporation—home to IT hubs and malls—is expected to generate ₹912 crore, followed by South. North Corporation may earn the least, potentially widening disparities in infrastructure development and affecting equitable growth across the newly planned zones.

Plan for 400 wards

Each of the five proposed corporations will comprise 80 wards, totaling 400 wards. Each will be divided into two zones, overseeing 35–40 wards, with zonal commissioners implementing civic schemes. The report identifies around 25 villages outside BDA limits that already show urban traits. Some large residential areas may be declared urban panchayats and later integrated. However, no final decision has been made regarding the inclusion of these outer areas into the new five-corporation framework.

Five corporations ideal for future growth

While three corporations may suffice in the short term, the task force suggests that a five-corporation model is best suited for Bengaluru's long-term growth. An official said, "The idea is to maintain the city's identity while ensuring balanced development across regions. With five commissioners and ten zonal commissioners overseeing their respective areas, administrative efficiency is expected to improve. The model also aims to foster healthy competition and performance among the corporations."

Interestingly, the first of these corporations is planned to be established in Yelahanka—historically significant as the original settlement of Bengaluru's founder, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. The other four corporations will be structured around the city's iconic boundary towers, thereby blending historical symbolism with modern governance, added an official.

Extortionists try to grab a bite

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in their food. A video of the incident soon went viral on social media. However, the café's management quickly lodged a police complaint, alleging that the entire incident was staged to demand money. Sumanth Lakshminarayanan, Head of Operations for the café chain, in the letter submitted to the police said that an anonymous caller contacted them hours after the incident and demanded ₹25 lakh in cash to prevent the video from being circulated further. The caller reportedly asked that the money be delivered to Brigade Road. The café has submitted call recordings, screenshots, and other evidence to the police to back its claims.

Attempts to defame made earlier

This is not the first such incident faced by the cafe. The management revealed that they have received similar threats in the past, where individuals deliberately planted foreign objects in food. "There have been earlier attempts to defame the café. In some cases, the people behind it were caught red-handed. We've taken every possible measure to maintain quality and hygiene, especially at high-security zones like airports," said a representative from the café.

But for many in the industry, this is more than just one incident, it's a silent cry for help. Hoteliers say they are often left with their hands tied. Some choose not to escalate the matter fearing backlash from customers and public opinion. Others quietly register FIRs or keep recordings as a defensive step. In some rare cases, confrontations have turned violent.

Officials have stated that CCTV installation is mandatory for all establishments and have advised hoteliers, restaurant and café owners not to engage in arguments with customers. In case of any emergency or harassment, they are urged to immediately call 112 for assistance.

Recent incidents

Earlier this month there were similar instances across the city. At Namma Filter Coffee earlier this month, a staffer was allegedly assaulted after refusing to provide an extra empty cup for free. Other cafés have faced aggressive customers hurling accusations and filming inside the premises over minor disputes.

While the police have registered an FIR in the Rameshwaram Café case and initiated a probe to trace the caller, hoteliers continue to operate in a climate of caution.

City reels under monkey menace

Bengaluru is facing a growing monkey menace, severely disrupting the peace and sleep of its residents. The problem has intensified to such an extent that monkeys are now boldly entering homes by opening windows, causing widespread panic among apartment dwellers. The BBMP is reportedly receiving numerous distress calls daily regarding these primate intrusions. In a desperate attempt to deter the monkeys, some residents have resorted to putting up photos of monkeys, hoping to scare them away. Areas particularly affected include Banashankari, Jayanagar, JP Nagar, and Kanakapura Road, where a surge of complaints has been registered. — BMB

Man killed in Anekal attack

A man was fatally attacked by bike-borne miscreants in Vinayaka Nagar, Anekal, late on Friday night. He suffered severe head injuries and succumbed in the early hours of Saturday. Ravikumar, 26, was rushed to a hospital in Bommasandra, where he fought for his life in the ICU. According to police, Ravikumar was sitting with friends near a shop when three men on a bike attacked him. They reportedly hit him on the head with wooden sticks before fleeing. Preliminary investigation suggests the attack was linked to a love affair. Police suspect the assailants to be the boyfriend of a girl known to Ravikumar and his friends. — BMB

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Vendor chaos

Kammanahalli

The Kammanahalli Main Road bus stop is crowded with street vendors, making it hard for commuters to access public transport safely.

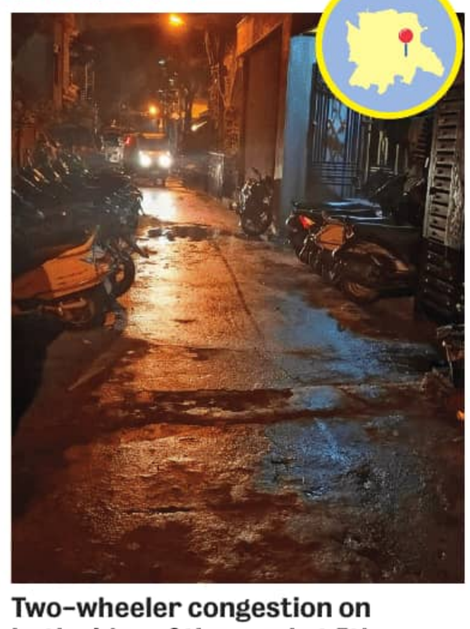
Debris neglect

Commercial Street

Construction waste lies unattended for months at a site, Jewellers Street, creating a civic eyesore near bustling Commercial Street.

Parking peril

Austin Town



Two-wheeler congestion on both sides of the road at 5th Square, Austin Town, hampers movement and poses risks during emergencies.

CBSE mandates 'Oil Boards' in schools to fight childhood obesity

Campaign urges schools to promote low-fat diets, junk food, and boost activity to tackle childhood obesity

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In a bid to combat rising childhood obesity, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed all affiliated schools to install "Oil Boards" across campuses and promote healthy living among students. This directive, detailed in a circular (No. Acad-45/2025) issued on July 15, builds on CBSE's earlier initiative mandating "Sugar Boards" and reflects its broader campaign to instill good eating habits and encourage physical activity in children.

Citing alarming data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and the Lancet Global Burden of Disease study, the board noted that more than 20% of urban adults in India are overweight or obese. Projections suggest this number could soar to over 44.9 crore by 2050, up from 18 crore in 2021. "The rise in childhood obesity is closely linked to poor dietary habits and reduced physical activity," the circular emphasised.

As part of this initiative, CBSE has instructed schools to display "Oil Boards"—both digital and static—in high-traffic areas such as cafeterias, corridors, and lobbies. These boards will serve as daily visual reminders of the health risks posed by excessive consumption of oil and fats. Moreover, the board has asked that health messages be printed on all official school stationery like letterheads, notebooks, and folders to keep the message constant throughout the school year.

> **"Schools are not just centres of learning, but also places where children build lifelong habits,"**
> –Dr Praggya M Singh, Director (Academics), CBSE

"Schools are not just centres of learning, but also places where children build lifelong habits," said Dr Praggya M Singh, Director (Academics), CBSE. "Through visual campaigns and practical steps, we aim to make students more conscious of what they eat and how they live."

In addition to visual messaging, the CBSE has urged schools to ensure the availability of nutritious, low-fat food options on campus while limiting the sale of sugary drinks and high-fat snacks. Schools are also encouraged to integrate physical activity into daily routines—by promoting the use of stairs, organizing quick exercise breaks, and developing walking paths on school grounds.

Students will be actively involved in designing the "Oil Boards" as part of experiential learning. To support schools, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has provided posters and videos through its official YouTube channel.

Dr Singh concluded, "The habits we form now will shape the health of the next generation."

UGC mandates accessibility in HEIs

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The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reiterated its directive to all universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) to implement the "Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities," recently notified by the Ministry of Education via e-Gazette. These guidelines aim to ensure inclusive, barrier-free campuses for students with disabilities. Referring to its earlier communications dated July 12, 2022, and March 8, 2024, the UGC emphasised that this mandate aligns with the Government of India's Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which prioritizes inclusive, technology-enabled education. The standards address infrastructure, curriculum design, delivery, and learning processes, and support implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Institutions are urged to act immediately, with detailed guidelines available on the UGC website.

UGC launches nationwide anti-ragging week

To curb ragging in higher educational institutions, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has enforced strict implementation of its anti-ragging regulations. All institutions must ensure compliance and create a safe, inclusive environment. As part of its awareness efforts, the UGC has designated August 12 as Anti-Ragging Day, followed by Anti-Ragging Week from August 12 to 18, starting in 2023.
The campaign promotes awareness among students and staff through engaging activities such as slogan writing, essay and poster contests, street plays, quizzes, debates, and social media drives. Institutions are urged to organize seminars, workshops, and interactive sessions, and to screen UGC's anti-ragging short films. Heads of institutions are expected to spread the message through official websites and social platforms, strengthening the collective stand against ragging.

–BMB

UVCE seeks guest faculty for engineering

The University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), KR Circle, Bengaluru, invites applications for Guest Faculty positions in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical & Electronics Engineering for the 2025–26 academic year. Applicants must hold a Master's degree or Ph.D. in the relevant field, meeting AICTE norms. The application form is available on the official website: www.uvce.karnataka.gov.in. Completed forms with necessary documents must reach the Registrar's Office by August 2, 2025. Late submissions will not be considered. For further information, candidates can contact the Registrar or respective department chairpersons. Interview dates will be published on the UVCE website or directly shared with shortlisted applicants. The university reserves the right not to appoint any guest faculty, depending on institutional requirements and applicant suitability.

–BMB

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K'taka battles dengue surge amid rising monsoon health crisis

Despite stable malaria numbers, Karnataka's 1,480 dengue cases spotlight urgent need for stronger monsoon-season vector control and public awareness

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Health workers intensify fogging drives as Karnataka maintains vigilance amid high dengue case load

Karnataka has recorded the third-highest number of dengue cases in India between April and June 2025, with 1,480 reported infections and no deaths, as per provisional data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Only Kerala (3,871 cases, 16 deaths) and Tamil Nadu (3,023 cases, 2 deaths) surpassed Karnataka in dengue numbers during this period. While the state avoided fatalities, the volume of cases highlights the pressure on local health systems during the pre-monsoon and early monsoon months.

The surge in dengue cases has been concentrated in southern India, emerging as a regional public health challenge. Along with Karnataka, Maharashtra (1,345 cases) and Telangana (433 cases) also reported a significant number of infections. Kerala's high fatality rate has caused alarm, and Tamil Nadu's steep jump in cases—from 4,778 in 2024 to over 8,500 so far this year—points to a worsening trend.

Though Karnataka's case numbers are high, they remain largely consistent with last year's data, suggesting a relatively steady trajectory. Health experts, however, caution against interpreting this as a sign of control, warning that the ongoing monsoon season still poses significant risks.

On a broader vector-borne disease (VBD) front, Karnataka appears to have maintained stability. The state recorded 148 malaria cases between January and June 2025, a marginal increase from the 141 cases reported during the same period last year. Notably, there were no reported cases of Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis, or Chikungunya, indicating effective surveillance and disease prevention strategies.

State faces mounting pressure from a surge in dengue cases, prompting calls for intensified mosquito control, improved sanitation, and heightened public health preparedness across the region

This situation stands in contrast to states like Odisha, where malaria cases nearly doubled—from 12,363 to 24,472. Similarly, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh witnessed sharp spikes in dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases. Karnataka's neighbours, Telangana and Kerala, also reported a rise in dengue and malaria, respectively.

Officials attribute Karnataka's relatively stable VBD numbers to better preparedness, baseline public health infrastructure, and community-level interventions. However, the continued high burden of dengue infections demands intensified control measures, including mosquito breeding source reduction, timely fogging, and better sanitation.

Experts warn that the absence of fatalities should not create a false sense of security. Urban crowding, water stagnation, and poor waste management continue to foster mosquito breeding, especially during the rains. Strengthened public participation and inter-departmental coordination will be crucial in preventing further escalation.

Nationally, dengue and chikungunya cases are reportedly down compared to 2024, but regional spikes have emerged. The Health Ministry has stepped up efforts with disease surveillance through the Integrated Health Information Portal and pre-monsoon preparedness, including training, drug supply, and integrated vector control.

With its high dengue load but stable performance on other VBDs, Karnataka stands at a critical juncture. .

Tiger deaths ignite outcry over forest staffing

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Outsourced forest staff delay patrols, weakening wildlife protection across tiger conflict zones

In the last three years, Karnataka has reported a large number of human-tiger conflict cases. Between April 2022 and December 2024, more than 2,000 such cases were registered, the majority involving cattle. Overall, nearly 16,000 conflict cases involving big cats were reported in the given period.

The recent suspected poisoning of five tigers in Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS) has brought renewed attention to the issue, with wildlife conservationists urging the state government to overhaul its staffing practices in forest protection. They have particularly called for an end to the outsourcing system and a push to fill long-vacant forest watcher posts through standard recruitment procedures.

"There are many detrimental effects of the outsourcing system that impact wildlife protection and, ultimately, conservation goals," said a wildlife conservationist. "Contractors often delay salary payments, as the government holds them responsible until annual plans of operation are approved. This burden is unfair and impractical, even temporarily. When salaries are delayed, patrolling efforts are compromised."

The Supreme Court, which issued a notice to the Karnataka government on July 23 regarding the MM Hills incident, has also flagged the issue of outsourced staff. An expert report by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), which assists the court, highlighted acute manpower shortages on the ground.

"Outsourcing negatively impacts wildlife protection; contractors delay salaries, compromising patrolling efforts, hindering conservation goals
–A wildlife conservationist

According to the Karnataka Forest Department, fewer than 30% of the total forest watcher posts are currently filled. Of the 1,892 sanctioned permanent watcher positions, only 532 were occupied as of December 2024.

"A total of 270 forest watchers were recruited last year. However, there has been no further recruitment since then," a senior forest department official said. "While the recruitment process for 540 forest guards is under way, all regular appointments remain on hold, and staffing needs are being met through outsourcing."

Conservationists argue that the government should also consider regularising the services of anti-poaching camp (APC) watchers, especially those with over a decade of continuous service. "Regularising APC watchers will ensure timely salaries and provide social security. This, in turn, will strengthen protection and conservation efforts," said Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife activist. He also stressed the need for reforms in the Transfer Counseling Management System (TCMS).

However, forest officials pointed to legal constraints. They cited the 2006 Supreme Court judgment in the State of Karnataka vs Umadevi case, which ruled that temporary employees do not have a fundamental right to permanent employment or to claim equal pay with regular employees.

Online excise transfer counselling

In a significant administrative reform, Karnataka's Excise Department has launched a new software module to streamline and digitise the transfer and posting process for its Group-C staff, including Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, and Constables.

Announced in the 2025–26 Budget, the system operates under the Karnataka Civil Services (Excise Department Officers and Officials Transfer) Rules, 2025, notified on May 14. Comprehensive guidelines—including timelines, priority lists, and special provisions for Hyderabad-Karnataka region officials—were issued on July 8.

The software, developed to ensure transparency, recorded the service details of 2,453 staff. A draft list of eligible candidates was released on July 17, followed by a review of objections. The final list was published on July 23.

Online counselling was held on July 24 for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and on July 25 for Head Constables and Constables. A total of 687 officials were transferred: 151 Inspectors, 114 Sub-Inspectors, 7 Head Constables, and 415 Constables.

While transfer lists for Head Constables and Constables will be published as scheduled, those of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors await judicial outcomes from the Karnataka High Court and Administrative Tribunal. **–BMB**

Minor engagements now illegal

In a significant move to curb child marriage, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025. The Bill, which will be tabled in the upcoming legislative session, makes even the engagement of minors a punishable offence.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil, briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, said the legislation aims to send a strong message that not just child marriage, but even betrothing a minor will attract legal consequences. "We have brought radical social changes. Those who previously escaped legal action cannot get away now," he stated.

The Cabinet's decision comes in the wake of nearly 700 child marriages being reported across Karnataka in 2023–24. It follows a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, where Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat CEOs were directed to adopt stricter measures to prevent child marriages.

The Bill underscores the government's resolve to eliminate the practice and protect the rights of children across the state. **–PTI**

Building code broken, yet work powers ahead

Clear orders to halt illegal construction go ignored as work on building continues; activists allege selective action and question officials' silence on repeated violations

Illegal construction underway in Chamarajpet

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner ordered the BBMP engineers to identify and demolish unauthorised buildings in certain zones in the city. The Chief Commissioner's intention is not to encourage illegal constructions in the city. However, the BBMP engineers are yet to pull up their socks to follow the Chief Commissioner's directive. If the illegal constructions in Chamarajpet Assembly constituency are any indication, it seems the property owners, with political clout, can get away without any hurdles, while hapless and helpless property owners have to face the music for violating building byelaws.

For example, a multi-storied building is under construction on 5th Cross of Chamarajpet. The illegal construction is happening just a few metres away from Chamarajpet MLA BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan's office. The BBMP engineers have visited the spot and prepared a report stating that three additional floors have been constructed illegally. The report was prepared on March 21. The BBMP Zonal Commissioner has also issued an order on March 21 to demolish or remove the portions of the building constructed illegally. The Zonal Commissioner has also directed the owners of the building (BV Gajendra Kumar and V Krishnaveni) to stop the construction work. However, the property owner allegedly continued the construction work without any hurdles.

Activist alleges BBMP shows double standards in acting against illegal constructions area

Blaming the BBMP authorities for being partial in issuing demolition orders, Anil Kumar GR, a social activist, said, "The BBMP authorities had evinced a keen interest in issuing a demolition order against VR Aravind, who constructed a building on Chamrajpet 4th Cross, but not issued a demolition order on the multi-storied building being constructed by BV Gajendra Kumar and V Krishnaveni even after I wrote four letters to the BBMP authorities since January 31. I do not know why the BBMP authorities have double standards on illegal constructions in Chamarajpet."

On Thursday, a few workers were seen at the building under construction.

When contacted, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Sowmya was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) Assistant Engineer Satish Kumar said the process for the demolition of unauthorised structures is in progress. "We have to float a tender inviting a contractor to demolish the illegal structure. I am in charge of the process since the Assistant Executive Engineer is on medical leave," the Assistant Engineer said.

When informed of the ongoing construction work, the Assistant Engineer said that no construction work should be taken up till the illegal portions of the building are demolished. "I will visit the spot. The property owner is supposed to stop the construction work," he said.

CISF escort for Darshan questioned

Kannada actor Darshan, facing serious charges in the fan murder case, returned to Bengaluru from Thailand in the early hours of Saturday, days after the Supreme Court expressed strong reservations about the Karnataka High Court's decision to grant him bail.

Fearing arrest if the apex court overturns his bail, Darshan landed in Bengaluru after wrapping up the shoot of his upcoming film Devil. His arrival, however, triggered fresh controversy after he was seen being escorted by armed CISF personnel at the Kempegowda International Airport, drawing criticism for what appeared to be VVIP-level security for a murder accused.

Video clips showed CISF and local police escorting Darshan from the terminal to his car. The security cover has sparked widespread criticism, with experts questioning the legitimacy of providing paramilitary protection to an individual facing murder charges. —BMB

Chinnaswamy Stadium IPL future unclear

The future of hosting Indian Premier League (IPL) matches at Bengaluru's iconic M Chinnaswamy Stadium is now uncertain following a damning report on safety concerns in the aftermath of a stampede during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) IPL victory celebrations. Justice Michael Cunha Commission, appointed to probe the stampede incident, has submitted its report to the Karnataka government, highlighting that the stadium is structurally unfit and unsafe for hosting high-density events. The commission has recommended against holding major crowd-pulling matches at the venue going forward.

The report states that the design and layout of Chinnaswamy Stadium are not suitable for large-scale gatherings. It recommends shifting such high-attendance events to safer venues that comply with international safety standards. In light of this, uncertainty now clouds the scheduling of future marquee cricket events at Chinnaswamy Stadium. —BMB

VK Global Excellence and Honour Award Conferred on M. Naveena

An inspiring journey of dedication and distinction in education

M. Naveena, a name now synonymous with progressive education and women empowerment in rural Karnataka, has been honoured with the prestigious VK Global Excellence and Honour Award 2025 for her remarkable contributions to the field of education. The award was recently presented to her at a grand ceremony held in Malaysia, where her achievements were celebrated by dignitaries from across the globe.

"The greater the challenge, the stronger our resolve to excel. My mission has always been to provide quality education that shapes both character and results. When efforts are sincere, success inevitably follows."
— M. Naveena

For over two and a half decades, Naveena has tirelessly worked to uplift the standard of education for children in rural areas. As a committed educationist, she played a crucial role in reviving the Mahila Samaja Educational Institution, leading it from a difficult phase to a position of strength along with the support of the management board and colleagues. She has also been instrumental in bringing reputed state-level banks to the district, furthering development in the region.

Hailing from Kolar district, Naveena completed her primary and secondary education at St. Anne's School, followed by PUC at Methodist College and a degree from Kolar Women's College. After marriage, she pursued her M.Sc. from Jnana Bharathi, Bangalore University, and went on to complete an M.Phil from Vinayaka Missions College and a B.Ed. from Ravi B.Ed. College. A sports enthusiast, she has represented Karnataka thrice in Shuttle Badminton, winning accolades at the university level.

Naveena began her teaching career in 2000 as a lecturer at Mahila Samaja, and through consistent hard work and leadership, she rose to become the CAO and Principal of Mahila Samaja PU College. Under her guidance, the college has consistently achieved 100% results annually, with students securing district and state-level ranks each year.

Her efforts extend beyond academics—Naveena has introduced Scouts and Guides in the college to instill discipline, values, and holistic development in students. As District Guide Commissioner-Bharat Scouts & Guides, Kolar, her contribution to education has been widely acknowledged.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

OWL LOVE NESTLED

Our reader shares a delightful moment of companionship—a pair of Scops Owls nestled together at Rainbow Drive Layout on Sarjapur Road. With their soft feathers fluffed and eyes half-closed in contentment, the owls appear completely at ease, enjoying each other's presence in the quietude of their leafy perch—a charming glimpse into the gentle bonds of urban wildlife.

The picture was clicked by reader **Chandar Natarajan**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Eco-tourism dream stalled at historic Roerich estate

Forest clearance delays and ecological concerns threaten ₹99 crore project to revive Roerich-Devika Rani estate as global cultural hub

A grand vision to transform the historic Roerich and Devika Rani Estate near Bengaluru into a global eco-tourism and cultural destination has hit a major roadblock, with the Karnataka Forest Department yet to grant the required clearances.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has sanctioned ₹99.17 crore in special financial assistance for the project, aiming to revive and promote the 468.33-acre estate located near Tataguni, along the Kanakapura Main Road. In response, the state's Department of Tourism prepared a detailed project report (DPR), outlining plans to develop the property into a full-fledged eco-tourism zone with improved infrastructure and visitor-friendly amenities. However, progress has stalled after the Forest Department declared the entire estate as a deemed forest and issued a notification—without informing the Roerich and Devika Rani Estate Board, which currently manages the property. This classification means that, despite being the official caretaker, the board cannot initiate any form of development without prior permission from the Forest Department.

Tourism officials have since submitted a proposal seeking a "No Objection Certificate" for 38 planned development activities. But environmentalists have raised serious legal and ecological concerns about the project. Wildlife conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni has formally approached the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, arguing that the project violates provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. He also warned that increased human activity could worsen human-animal conflict in the ecologically sensitive area. As a result, the eco-tourism plan is currently on hold.

Once a vibrant cultural hub and residence of renowned Russian painter Dr. Svetoslav Roerich and legendary actress Devika Rani, the estate has faced years of neglect since 1996. Over the past decade, however, the Karnataka government has tried to revive it. The couple's home, studio, mausoleum, and staff quarters were renovated at a cost of ₹82 lakh. Another ₹70 lakh was spent to refurbish the Bernera fragrance seed processing unit and restore parts of the estate. Roerich's original oil paintings, brushes, and other art materials have been preserved within his restored studio. The Horticulture Department developed a rose garden on five acres, while the Forest Department established a tree park over 100 acres. Despite these efforts, poor maintenance has led to fresh deterioration. — BMB

Restored heritage bungalow stands silent as forest clearance halts further development at Roerich Estate

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kennebec River, which flows through Maine's capital city, is known for its population of Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, ancient fish that occasionally leap dramatically out of the water. At least one such leap was witnessed on Wednesday.
State biologists say the shortnose sturgeon population in the river has nearly doubled since the late 1970s, increasing from about 5,100 to more than 9,400 around the year 2000, and likely continuing to grow since then. These fish have also shown signs of recovery in other parts of the state, including the Saco River further south. Scientists have proposed several theories to explain why sturgeon leap out of the water. The reasons may include regulating their swim bladder, communicating with other sturgeon, shedding parasites, or avoiding predators. Shortnose sturgeon can weigh up to 60 pounds (27 kilograms), while Atlantic sturgeon are significantly larger, some reaching up to 800 pounds (363 kilograms). For nature lovers, catching a glimpse of these leaping fish is often a matter of luck and a thrilling reward for those along Maine's rivers.
— AP

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Trump claims cashless bail increases crime, but data is inconclusive

As pressure mounts on the Trump administration to release Justice Department files tied to the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking case, former President Donald Trump has shifted focus to a different criminal justice issue — cashless bail. In a recent post on his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump claimed that eliminating cash bail has led to a spike in crime across American cities.

"Crime in American Cities started to significantly rise when they went to CASHLESS BAIL," Trump wrote. "The WORST criminals are flooding our streets and endangering even our great law enforcement officers. It is a complete disaster, and must be ended, IMMEDIATELY!"

However, data and expert analysis do not support this assertion. While crime trends vary across the United States, research has not established a clear or direct link between bail reform and rising crime. Experts warn that sweeping claims like Trump's oversimplify a complex issue. Kellen Funk, a Columbia Law School professor who studies pretrial procedures and bail bonding, flatly rejected the former president's claim. "I don't know of any valid studies corroborating the President's claim," he said. "In my professional judgment, I'd call the claim demonstrably false and inflammatory."

Even Jeff Clayton, executive director of the American Bail Coalition — a group that advocates for the cash bail industry — acknowledged that evidence is inconclusive. "Studies are inconclusive in terms of whether bail reforms have had an impact on overall crime numbers," Clayton said. He added that pretrial crime represents only a small subset of overall crime, making broad conclusions difficult.

Different jurisdictions in the U.S. have taken varying approaches to bail reform. In 2023, Illinois became the first state to entirely eliminate cash bail following a state Supreme Court ruling that upheld the law's constitutionality. The measure, part of the broader 2021 SAFE-T Act, allows judges to make case-by-case decisions about whether to detain or release defendants based on public safety and flight risk rather than financial means.

A 2024 report from Loyola University of Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice examined the effects of Illinois' bail reform one year after its implementation. The study concluded that while it is still too early for definitive results, violent and property crimes have declined in several counties, and there is no evidence of a statewide crime surge.

Other areas such as New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C. have implemented similar reforms, also without notable increases in crime.

A 2024 Brennan Center for Justice report analyzing 33 major cities found "no statistically significant relationship" between bail reform and crime rates. Additionally, a 2023 study in the American Economic Journal on Philadelphia's 2018 bail reform showed no measurable improvement in court appearance rates or reduction in crime linked to cash bail.

While some pandemic-era bail reforms in California suggested higher rearrest rates, experts cautioned that COVID-19 disruptions likely skewed the data.

In conclusion, Trump's claim that cashless bail has led to a rise in crime is not backed by evidence. A growing body of research shows no direct connection, and experts urge caution against using bail reform as a scapegoat for broader crime trends. — AP

THE SUNDAY READ

Sharpening old deals

In city of instant apps, Bengaluru's door-to-door vendors quietly keep tradition alive, delivering goods and trust without tech; their presence preserves fading world of community, routine, and human connection

Bengaluru, the silicon hub famed for cutting-edge technology and instant deliveries via apps, surprisingly still harbours a thriving culture of traditional door-to-door vendors. While today's consumers summon groceries, medicines, and meals with a tap on their phones, somewhere in the narrow lanes of this bustling city, age-old vendors pedal or walk their routes, delivering goods and services without digital trackers or notifications—just trust, familiarity, and a personal touch.

In a city racing towards the future, these humble entrepreneurs quietly sustain a parallel economy built on memories, sustainability, and community bonding. Unlike tech services run by algorithms, these vendors rely on routine, face-to-face connections, and the simple joy of a friendly chat.

Beyond groceries

This vibrant tradition isn't limited to fruits and vegetables. Bengaluru's neighbourhoods still witness some rather unusual and almost forgotten doorstep services that many millennials may find peculiar.

Blade and knife sharpening

The iconic knife sharpener, with a grinding wheel mounted on a bicycle, calls out through the streets, drawing homemakers eager to restore their kitchen tools. Despite the rise of disposable blades, some Bangaloreans cherish this skilful craft that brings back nostalgia and saves money.

Hair-for-cash collectors

Once common in semi-urban areas, collectors—often women—offered money in exchange for long hair, which was sold to wig makers. Lakshmi KR, 71, from Jeevan Bheema Nagar, recalls the daily visits from a persistent collector during her daughters' childhood. Though rare now, traces remain in rural pockets of the city.

Recyclable milk packet collectors

Long before municipal recycling, local collectors encouraged households to save empty plastic milk packets, washing and bundling them for sale to recycling units. Sarala BL, a theatre artist, recalls how this taught her childhood math and communication skills—a practice largely absent in today's app-reliant generation.

Plasticware peddlers

Salesmen, carrying baskets full of colourful plastic containers and utensils, visit homes, offering affordable daily-use items. Their visits remain a welcome routine for many.

Home-based tailoring

Tailors working from their homes or doorsteps offer personalised garment stitching and alterations, a trusted alternative to impersonal mall services.

Earthen pot vendors

Before modern coolers, clay pots known for their natural cooling were sold door-to-door, their distinctive clanking sound a summer soundtrack.

Brass & copperware cleaners/sellers

With traditional metals losing their sheen, polishers offer doorstep cleaning using natural ingredients, preserving cultural cooking and ritual practices.

Daily milkmen

Milkmen still make rounds, delivering fresh milk in measured quantities, maintaining bonds of trust established over generations despite the rise of packaged milk.

Washermen and ironing men

Dhobis collect and return freshly washed and ironed clothes, a full-cycle service sustained by long-term personal relationships. Entrepreneur Savitha Nagaraj shares how her family's ironing man continues weekly visits without needing a call.

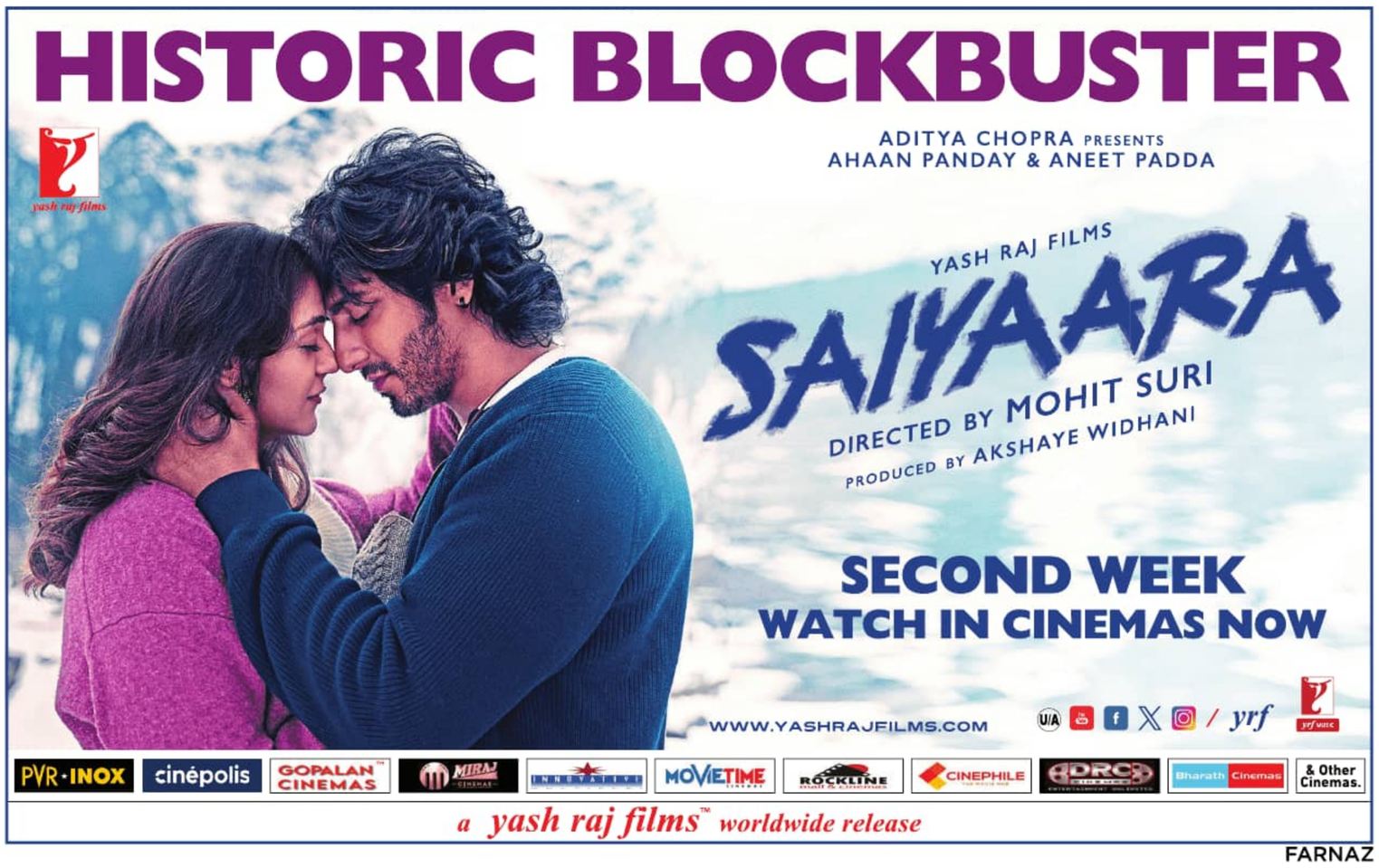
Remnants of close-knit community

Seasonal fruit deliveries, kerosene sellers filling containers before LPG became common, and recyclable services all point to a time when neighbourhoods functioned like extended families. Latha Srinivas, a retired teacher, recalls how joint orders and borrowing among neighbours were part of everyday life—practices slowly fading as convenience apps took over.

Preserving Bengaluru's old-world charm

Though many services like ice block sellers, mobile barbers, and quilting ladies have disappeared, those that remain offer a precious window into Bengaluru's past. Supporting these small vendors is not just about convenience—it's about preserving the city's soul and the human connections that technology can't replace. In the bustling IT capital, where instant delivery reigns supreme, Bengaluru's age-old door-to-door services quietly remind us that some traditions, built on trust and community, are here to stay.

–Achala Nataraj



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real estate

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ACADEMIC

TEACHER

TEACHER Vacancy-1) Primary all subjects,2) NTT trained and 3) Hindi. email-imageenglishschool@gmail.com , ph-8217227181, J P Nagar 6th Phase, B'lore

HARWARD Group of Institutions Dasanapura Tumkur Road, Bangalore North 562123. WANTED LECTURER- ECONOMICS, ENGLISH, HINDI & COMPUTER SCIENCE HARWARD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CBSE Affiliation No.830335 TGT for MATHS, HINDI & Marketing Executive. Please send CV to infoharwardints@gmail.com Mob: 9880112833, 9945230286

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ACCOUNTANT

WANTED-SENIOR Experienced Accountants and Civil Enginers for a Reputed company at Koramangala. Contact: 98806 60665

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SALES

SALESMAN Needed for Servo Industrial Lubricants. Experience Rqd. Send CV to 9353066847/ email: pcglubes@gmail.com

WANTED Pharma sales managers, stores in charge with experience at South african market only. Contact 8220084045

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Qurratul D/O, Akmal Pasha R/o #3034,near Aziziya Masjid, Hyderi Nagar, Mulbagal 563131 have changed my name to Qurratul Ain for all purposes.

I MOHAMED RAFI S/o Vali Saheb R/o No 7/1-1 17th Cross Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to MOHAMMED RAFI for all Purposes

I, Gunavathi Bai Suraj Chavan R/o #3 Kshemashri,6th Main Chamundeshwari Layout Doddabommasandra Vidyaranyapura post B'luru-560097 have changed my name to Gunavathi Bai Eshwar rao

Change Of Name

I, Syed Ghousepeer have changed the name of my daughter (who is minor) Sadiya Amrah to Sadiya Amra R/o 48, 6th Cross, Mangammapalya Main road, Madina nagar, bangalore 560068 vide Affidavit dated 25.07.2025 before Notary Public/Bangalore.

I, UMASHREE C KARAKIKATTI, R/o Flat 338, DS-MAX Stonescape, Anjanapura, Bangalore–560108, declare that I have changed my name from UMASHRI KARKIKATTI to UMASHREE C KARAKIKATTI; both refer to me. Affidavit sworn on 25.07.2025

I, TABASSUM W/O FAYAZ AHMED residing at # KG-79 Ground Floor 4th cross HBR Layout 2nd stage Venkatesh puram,KG Halli,B'lore-560045.I have changed my name to TABASSUM AHAMED. Vide affidavit dated 22/07/2025 sworn before notary LEELA

I, NISHMITHA BHANDARI, No 2, Vaibhav, 3rd Floor, Ranga Rao Parallel Road, Near Shankr Mutt, Shankarpuram, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Have changed my name to NISHMITHA JAIN, vide affidavit dated 15/07/2025 sworn before Notary M. Prabhakar Bangalore

I, Yogesh Durgappa Naik, S/o Durgappa Naik, residing at #28, Hanuman Nagar, Bhatkal, Karnataka - 581320, have changed my name to Yogesh Naik as per affidavit dated 22.07.2025 before Notary J. Anand Kumar, Bangalore

I, Meena Perugopanapalli Krishnan Madhivanan W/O Karan Kumar, Nandana 3rd Cross, SS Puram, Tumkur-572102 have changed my name to Meena Karan for all purposes.

I Javeriya Sulthan W/O, Akmal Pasha R/o #3034,near Aziziya Masjid.hyderi Nagar,mulbagal 563131 have changed my name to Javeriya Sultana for all purposes

GET NOTICED

Man alleges assault by PSI

A 26-year-old man has reportedly suffered permanent hearing loss after being assaulted by a police sub-inspector (PSI) in Begur, according to a complaint filed with the city police commissioner. The victim, Uday Kumar, was a tenant caught in a dispute between two landlords in Bommanahalli. His lawyer alleged that Begur PSI Puneeth intervened in what was essentially a civil matter, brought Uday to the police station, used abusive language, and assaulted him.

Uday claims that during the incident, PSI Puneeth kicked him and slapped him on the head, leading to severe injury.

A subsequent medical examination reportedly revealed complete hearing loss in his left ear. According to the complaint, Uday was not involved in any criminal activity, and the assault happened solely due to the officer's excessive force. The PSI allegedly threatened Uday, warning him that if he spoke about the incident in court, his name would be added to the list of history of sheeters. .

Senior officials are now reviewing the complaint, and further investigation is underway.

Dubai returnee abducted

A 40-year-old Dubai-based office manager has filed a complaint with the Ashoknagar Police alleging that he was kidnapped, assaulted, and held captive for ransom by a gang in the city earlier this month.

The victim, who had been working for Ryan Tours and Travels, had come to the city on June 15, to visit his family. He alleges that a woman identified as Mahima Watt lured him into a trap. On July 14, after repeated WhatsApp calls, she told him a cab was waiting to take him to play poker.

He boarded the cab from near Indirangar and around 3 am, and instead of being taken to the destination was driven towards Koramangala, overpowered by two men, blindfolded, and taken to a serviced apartment where he was held for eight days. The gang allegedly stole ₹1 lakh in cash and two iPhones before demanding ₹50 lakh for his release, threatening to hand him over to a person who had contracted them for ₹5 crore.

The victim was tied up, beaten, and kept without food and water until he pretended to agree to their demands. On July 22, while being shifted to another location, he managed to alert a neighbour and his sister. Fearing police pursuit, the kidnappers dropped him near Yeshwantpur. **BMB**

Jewellery shop robbed

Robbers struck a jewellery shop at Machohalli Gate, Magadi Road, to take gold ornaments worth approximately ₹18.4 lakh late on Thursday night. The owner of the shop Kanhaiyalal Prajapati (33), a resident of Kadabagere Cross, and his employee Shailendhar had opened the shop as usual at 9.30 am on and were closing around 8.50 pm.

While Shailendhar was moving gold ornaments into the locker, three unidentified men barged into the shop. Two of them brandished what appeared to be toy guns and a machete, threatening the duo. The staff watched as the third man stuffed a gold ring and seven trays of ornaments, weighing around 184 grams, into a plastic bag. The robbers, all wearing monkey caps, caps, and pullovers, fled the scene in a waiting white car.

Prajapati and Shailendhar raised an alarm, and Amit, a shopkeeper, tried to chase them, but the car's number plate was not visible. Upon returning, they found a broken toy gun grip left behind at the scene.

Forgery case in KSRTC

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has filed a complaint against Richard G, a Junior Assistant-cum-Data Entry Operator in the Accounts Department of its Central Office, for allegedly forging transfer and reappointment orders by scanning signatures of seniors. KN Lakshman, Security and Vigilance Officer of the Kempegowda Bus Stand Division, lodged the complaint. He stated that June 11, Richard created fake orders using the signatures of Chief Mechanical Engineer, Managing Director and Chief Traffic Manager (Operations).

LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

Warning signs that shouldn't be ignored

Whether it's a cold or cancer, our body always gives us signs and warnings, but we are often too adamant or careless to listen. The brain is the master of our body; when it sneezes, the whole body gets a cold. Today, I have compiled a list of symptoms that experts say you shouldn't ignore. These are signs that something is not right in your brain, ranging from early signs of dementia to alarms for stroke. Let's learn to listen and understand the cues given by the body.

Memory Problems

Not being able to recall recent conversations or forgetting where you kept your keys or what you had for dinner last night could be one of the early signs of Alzheimer's or hippocampus dysfunction. These signs are often ignored or brushed off, but if this happens to you often enough, it might be time to pay a visit to an expert. Long-term memory loss, though relatively uncommon, is serious. Not being able to recall the name of your school, mixing up words often, or not recognizing important people from your past could point towards neurodegenerative problems or cognitive impairment.

Brain Fog

Feelings of confusion, mental disorientation, irritability, increased reaction time, and trouble concentrating are all termed together under a single word: brain fog. Neuroscience recognizes it as a cognitive impairment and could be a symptom of neurodegenerative disorders like Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, hormonal imbalance, or shrinkage of the hippocampus. It may seem like a temporary fatigue but could be a cry for help from your brain.

Speech Problems

Subtle signs like stammering, misusing words, or pronouncing them wrong all of a sudden could be a sign of neurological dysfunction. Pausing mid-sentence to recall a word or not being able to speak clearly could be a symptom of central nervous system damage, a tumor, frontal lobe damage, or aphasia. These signs are often thought to be a result of stress and fatigue, which could be true, but they could also be more serious and shouldn't be taken lightly.

Loss of Balance or Coordination

Leaning towards one side, having an unsteady gait or dull reflexes, and losing balance easily—if these are things that have been happening to you lately, then pay attention to your body and consult a doctor immediately. These are the signs of brain, spinal cord, or inner ear impairment. These symptoms could easily be a sign of cerebellar dysfunction, Parkinson's, or vestibular disorder.

Muscle Weakness or Depletion

Loss of muscle or muscle pain can indicate neurological disorders such as sclerosis, ALS, muscular dystrophy (which may cause difficulty in climbing stairs or lifting weight), or myasthenia gravis (a condition where muscles weaken with activity and recover with rest). It may also signal a tumor or stroke.

Losing Sense of Smell

Over the past decades, our sense of smell has been steadily dulling. But if you notice someone particularly numb to smells—or simply unaware of them—it's wise to consider a routine checkup. In over 90 percent of cases, people suffering from Parkinson's (a progressive neurological disorder) first lost their sense of smell before motor symptoms appeared.

An impaired sense of smell can also signal a possible tumor in the frontal lobe or damage to the olfactory nerves. If you notice a decline in your sense of smell, connecting with a healthcare advisor is a good idea.

Tingling or Numbness in the Limbs

The feeling of tingling or frequent numbness in the hands and feet, commonly referred to as 'sleepy foot,' is not always a result of poor circulation. According to Dr. Angelica Balingit, MD, it could also be something more serious, such as stroke symptoms, damage to the myelin sheath, lesions, or cervical spine disorders. Numbness and tingling in the limbs may result from serious neurological conditions, including multiple sclerosis, stroke, or vitamin deficiencies.

Severe Headaches

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have warned that headaches could be a sign of an underlying brain or nervous system problem. Headaches are often written off as being tired or stressed and are curbed by painkillers, but sudden, recurring headaches might be your body telling you that something is wrong. They could be a sign of a tumor, stroke, meningitis, or other fatal diseases.

—Vidhi Jain, Femina

Overfilled lips are not perceived as beautiful: Study

As lip filler procedures grow in popularity, more patients are pursuing exaggerated enhancements, often influenced by social media trends. But new research has found that natural proportions — not overinflated lips — are considered most attractive. A research team from the American University of Beirut used artificial intelligence to generate images of a White female face with various upper-to-lower (U/L) lip ratios and degrees of lip fullness.

In a survey of 200 adults, participants ranked these images based on perceived attractiveness. The study was published in the international journal Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery – Global Open.

The most aesthetically preferred lips were those with a U/L ratio between 0.618:1 and 1:1, meaning either a slightly fuller lower lip or a balanced upper and lower lip. Upper lips that measured 25 percent of hemi-lip width received the highest ratings. In contrast, images with overinflated lips — especially when both lips were enlarged or the upper lip exceeded 30 percent of hemi-width — were consistently rated as unaesthetic and unnatural. The researchers noted that full lips have long been considered a hallmark of youth and beauty and that lip augmentation with soft tissue fillers is now one of the most common nonsurgical aesthetic procedures. However, their findings suggest that augmentation beyond natural proportions may reduce — rather than enhance — perceived

attractiveness, the researchers stressed. The study also reflects growing concerns over beauty ideals shaped by celebrity culture and social media. As aesthetic procedures become more normalized — often compared to getting a haircut or a manicure — more patients are bringing in reference photos of influencers or celebrities, hoping to achieve dramatic results. But the researchers caution that social media alone does not fully explain this trend. "Exaggerated requests of some patients may not be attributed solely to social media influence," the study said. "They are likely the result of social media in combination with additional underlying personal predisposing factors," including body image distortion and psychological tendencies such as perfectionism or neuroticism. What makes the study particularly notable is its AI-based methodology, which sought to quantify aesthetic preferences using systematically varied images.

—The Korea Times

Ivermectin can lower new malaria infection in children by 26pc: Study

Ivermectin can be an effective strategy to control malaria transmission, according to a new study that showed the drug can lower new malaria infections by 26 per cent.

Ivermectin, a drug traditionally used to treat neglected tropical diseases like onchocerciasis, which causes river blindness, and lymphatic filariasis, which causes elephantiasis, has been shown to reduce malaria transmission by killing the mosquitoes that feed on treated individuals.

Given the rising resistance to conventional insecticides, ivermectin could offer an effective new approach to tackle malaria transmission, especially in regions where traditional methods have become less effective, said researchers from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal).

"Ivermectin administered to the whole population significantly reduces malaria transmission, offering new hope in the fight against the disease," the team said.

In the study, conducted in Kwale County, Kenya, children aged 5–15 who received ivermectin experienced a 26 per cent reduction in malaria infection incidence compared to those who received albendazole, the control drug used in the study.

The findings, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, demonstrated that ivermectin significantly reduced malaria infection rates -- particularly among children living further from cluster borders or in areas where drug distribution was more efficient.

Moreover, the safety profile of ivermectin was favourable, with no severe drug-related adverse events and only mild, transient side effects already seen with ivermectin in campaigns against neglected tropical diseases.

"We are thrilled with these results," said Carlos Chaccour, co-principal investigator and ISGlobal researcher.

Malaria remains a global health challenge, with 263 million cases and 597,000 deaths reported in 2023.

Current vector control methods, such as long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS), have become less effective due to insecticide resistance and behavioural adaptations in mosquitoes to bite outdoors and during dusk or dawn, when people are not protected by these measures.

—IANS

HEALTH TIP: Peanut, almond, or cashew butter – all are rich in healthy fats, protein, and calories

Black coffee is believed to have properties that help in improving your memory over time

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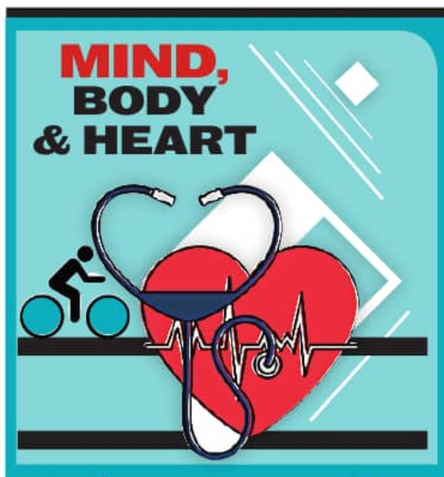

All you need to know about...

Relationship loop

What is it?
Remember Carrie and Mr. Big from Sex & The City and their rollercoaster relationship? Breaking up, then getting back together, over and over? That's exactly what a relationship loop is, a repetitive cycle where you break up and reunite multiple times. It's less about moving forward and more about going in circles, often stuck in the same toxic patterns of fights, blame, and frustration. Instead of building something steady, you keep reopening old wounds, hoping this time it'll be different.

Why do people get caught in it?
It's surprisingly easy to get stuck in a loop, and honestly, there are so many reasons why. Sometimes it's that emotional attachment that keeps reeling you back in, or maybe it's just choosing the comfort of what's familiar over the scary unknown of being alone. And let's be real, the highs can feel so intense.

Not healthy
Have you broken up and gotten back together more times than you can count, without actually resolving any issues? Do you also feel anxious, drained or overwhelmed more than secure and happy? Are you constantly hoping that things will be different the 'next time'? Well, we hate to break it to you, but you're in a loop and not a healthy relationship.
Also, the biggest difference between love and a loop is stability. No relationship gives you fireworks and butterflies all the time, that's not what love is. It's about feeling secure, seen, and content, even on difficult days. A loop, on the other hand, keeps you second-guessing everything and makes you walk on eggshells around them.

—Femina

SEAFOOD CRAVINGS

Asian recipes curated for the true-blue seafood aficionado

SINGAPOREAN CHILLI CRAB

INGREDIENTS
- Whole Crab – 400 g
- Corn Flour – 2.5 tbsp
- All-purpose Flour – 1.5 tbsp
- Chilli Oil – 1 tsp
- Oil – 1 tbsp
- Singapore Oil – 1 tsp
- Dry Red Chilli (Whole) – 3 pieces
- Ginger – ½ tsp (finely chopped)
- Garlic – ½ tsp (finely chopped)
- Tomato Sauce – ½ tsp
- Chilli Oil – 1 tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Sugar – a pinch
- White Pepper – a pinch
- Egg – 1
- Potato Starch – 1 tbsp
- Coriander Leaf – ½ tsp (chopped)
- Fish Sauce – ¼ tsp

METHOD
- Clean the whole crab.
- Prepare a coating batter using corn flour, flour, 1 beaten egg, and a pinch of salt.
- Coat the crab pieces and shallow-fry until golden. (this is to bring flavours inside the meat).
- Heat oil and Singapore oil in a wok. Add dry red chilli, chopped ginger, and garlic.
- Then add tomato sauce, fish sauce, sugar, white pepper, and additional chilli oil. Stir well.
- Add a little water if needed and bring to a simmer.
- Stir in the potato starch to thicken the sauce.
- Slowly pour in the remaining beaten egg while stirring to create egg ribbons.
- Add the fried crab and toss well to coat with the sauce.
- Garnish with chopped coriander leaves and serve hot.

CRISPY SQUIDS WITH BIRD'S EYE CHILLI AND BASIL LEAVES

INGREDIENTS
- Squid – 230 g
- Corn Flour – 1.5 tbsp
- All purpose Flour– 1 tbsp
- Chilli Oil – ½ tsp
- Egg – 1
- Oil – 1 tbsp
- Garlic – 1 tsp
- Butter – 1.5 tsp
- Oyster Sauce – ½ tsp
- Salt – as per taste
- Sugar – a pinch
- White Pepper – a pinch
- Fresh Red Chilli – ½ tsp
- Basil Leaves – a few

METHOD
- Clean the squid rings thoroughly in lukewarm water with a pinch of salt . Strain and set aside.
- In a bowl, mix corn flour, flour, egg, chilli oil and a pinch of salt. Add the squid and coat well.
- Heat oil in a wok and deep-fry the squid until golden and crispy. Set aside.
- In another pan, heat oil and butter. Add chopped garlic, oyster sauce and sauté till aromatic.
- Toss the fried squid.
- Now garnish with freshly chopped red chillies and garnish with fried basil leaves.
- Serve hot.

SHRIMP CHAHAN

INGREDIENTS
- Cooked rice – 1 cup (preferably cold, one day-old)
- Shrimps – 14 pieces, peeled and deveined
- Egg – 1
- Oil – 2 tablespoons
- Garlic (minced) – 2 teaspoons
- Butter – 2 teaspoons
- Red capsicum (diced) – 1½ tablespoons
- Yellow capsicum (diced) – 1½ tablespoons
- Green capsicum (diced) – 1½ tablespoons
- Salt – as per taste
- Sugar – as per taste
- White pepper powder – a pinch
- White sesame seeds – ¼ teaspoon
- Black sesame seeds – a pinch
- Oyster sauce – 2 teaspoons
- Nori sheet (seaweed) – 1 full sheet, shredded or crumbled
- Japanese shichimi togarashi – ¼ teaspoon

METHOD
- Start by heating 1 tablespoon oil in a large wok. Crack in the egg and scramble it quickly on high heat. Once cooked, remove and set aside.
- In the same wok, add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil and the butter. Once hot, toss in the minced garlic. Sauté until fragrant.
- Add the shrimps and stir-fry for 1–2 minutes until they turn pink, followed by red, yellow, and green capsicums. Stir-fry on high heat for another minute to keep the veggies crisp.
- Add the cooked rice to the wok along with the scrambled egg. Mix thoroughly to combine everything.
- Season with salt, sugar, a pinch of white pepper. Pour in the oyster sauce and stir well to coat the rice evenly in the buttery, savoury goodness.
- Toss in the white sesame seeds and half the crumbled nori sheet. Give everything a final stir on high heat.
- Serve hot, topped with black sesame seeds, the remaining shredded nori, and a sprinkle of Japanese shichimi togarashi.

(Recipes from ongoing Oriental Seafood Festival by Chowman)

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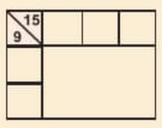
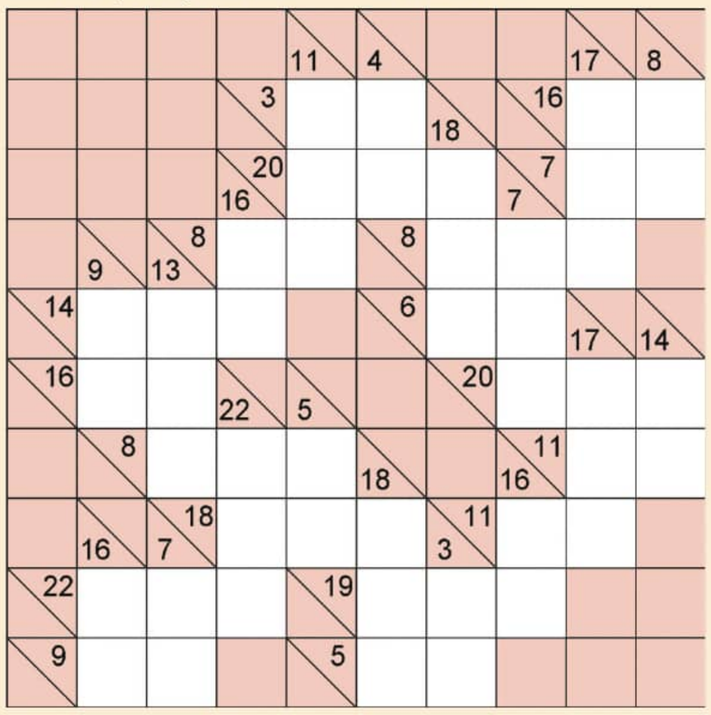
Kakuro

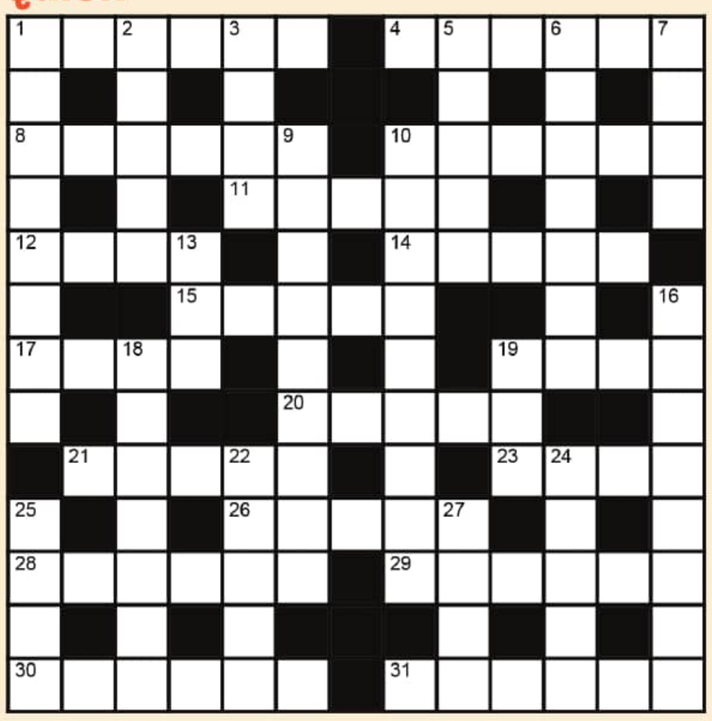
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Ceremony (6)
4 Entices (6)
8 Japanese number puzzle (6)
10 Be unfaithful or disloyal to (6)
11 Per ___: yearly (5)
12 Spanish surrealist painter (4)
14 Close-fitting (5)
15 Moved stealthily (5)
17 Simple (4)
19 Area of ground (4)
20 Bo ____ : No. 10 heroine ? (5)
21 Indian language (5)
23 Adjoin (4)
26 Male relative (5)
28 A rotten chap (3-3)
29 Pulled or tugged sharply (6)
30 Drowsy (6)
31 Just copes (4,2)

DOWN

1 Matters remaining (8)
2 Ebbing and flowing (5)
3 Playback singer Yagnik (4)
5 Tropical resin (5)
6 This victory is too costly (7)
7 Tofu base (4)
9 Rigid; inflexible (9)
10 Bannerghatta National Park is home to India's first ____ enclosure (9)
13 Unfriendly (3)
16 Angrily, being warm? (8)
18 Cheat (7)
19 Alias, in short (3)
22 Excavated or unearthed? (3,2)
24 Motorcycles informally (5)
25 Sacred bird (4)
27 Comfort (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS C

JA EDP'F IWDP WYRA. DWW JA EDP HZ YV SA DKDYWDSWA RZU YF.

Linemaro

If beauty were time, you would be eternity

Mind chow

Courage isn't having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have strength

Joke of the day

I went to a pizzeria, I ordered a slice of pizza, he gave me the smallest slice possible; if the pizza was a pie chart for what people would do if they found a million dollars, the man gave me the "donate it to charity" slice

Loop

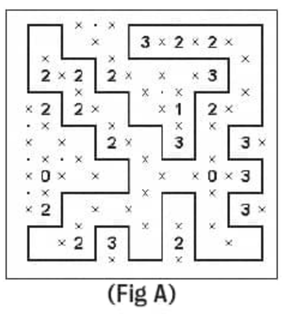
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

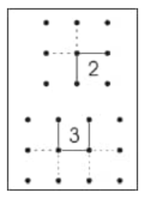
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

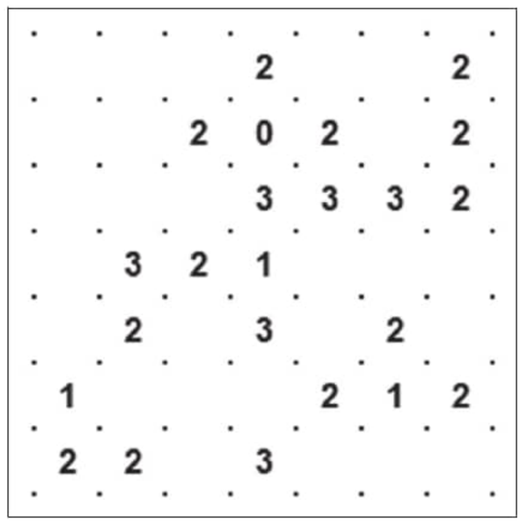
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



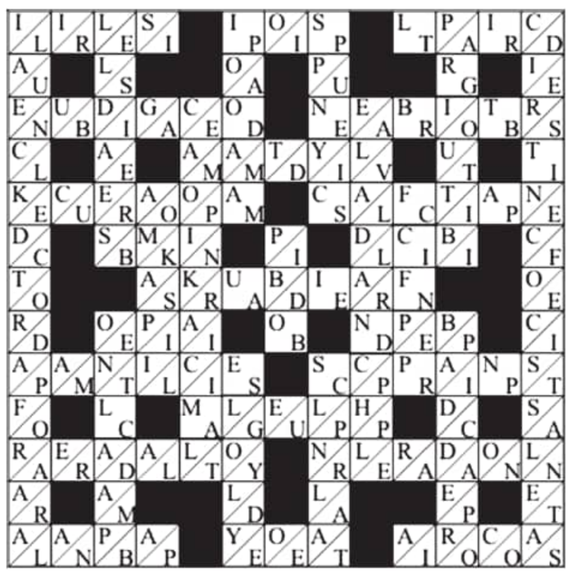
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



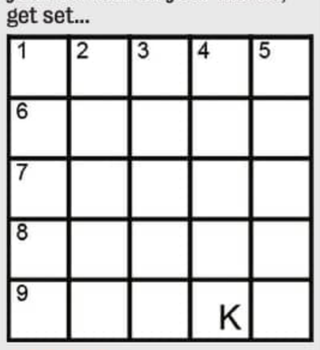
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Scald; 6 Lutra; 7 Bait K; 8 A nine; 9 Rocks

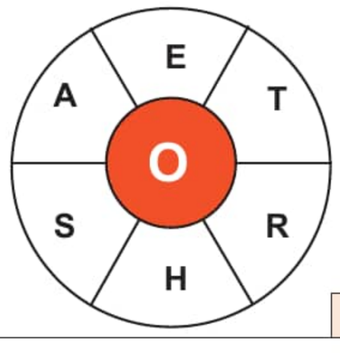
DOWN

1 IC cub; 2 No all; 3 At art; 4 In drk; 5 Asks E

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last hexagon?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

21 Average; 23 Good; 25 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			1		4			
	3						9	
	9	5	6		8	1	2	
3	1		2		9		6	5
7	2		8		6		1	9
	4	7	3		1	2	5	
	5						3	
			5		7			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 11

1 1 4 7

Medium

= 5

2 4 8 9

Hard

= 27

5 6 7 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

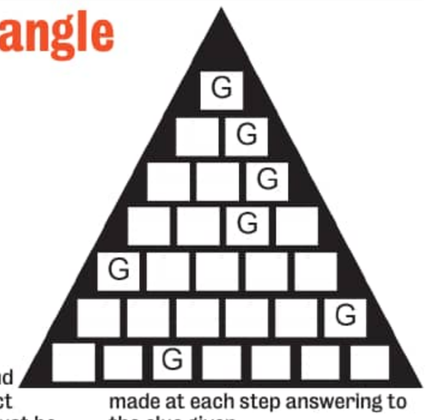
Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Glove is different. 3. Cap is turned around. 4. Tree trunk is thinner. 5. Fence board is shorter. 6. Hat is larger.

Riddler

I belong to you, but am used more by others. What am I?

Alpha triangle

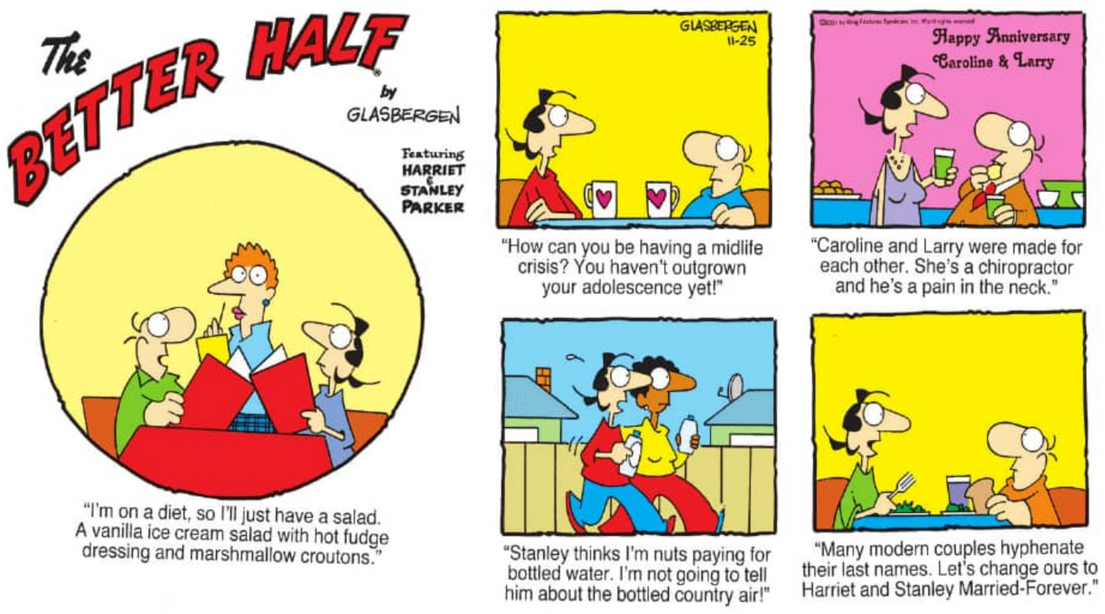
1 1000 colloquially
2 Silver symbol
3 Label
4 Roman robe
5 Implied (3,2)
6 Blackfish
7 Towing vessel



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"I'm on a diet, so I'll just have a salad. A vanilla ice cream salad with hot fudge dressing and marshmallow croutons."
GLASBERGEN 11-25
"How can you be having a midlife crisis? You haven't outgrown your adolescence yet!"
Happy Anniversary Caroline & Larry
"Caroline and Larry were made for each other. She's a chiropractor and he's a pain in the neck."
"Stanley thinks I'm nuts paying for bottled water. I'm not going to tell him about the bottled country air!"
"Many modern couples hyphenate their last names. Let's change ours to Harriet and Stanley Married-Forever."

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
TELL ZOE TO COME GET HER CLEAN CLOTHES.
OKAY, MOM.
WHAT DO YOU DO TO A TURKEY BEFORE YOU PUT IT IN THE OVEN?
STUFF IT.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
SHE SAID WHAT??
THAT'S A DIRECT QUOTE.
KA-THOOM!
KA-THOOM!
KRRASH!
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE 8-6
HAVING CLIMBED TO SAFETY, DALE AND ZARKOV WATCH IN HORROR AS FLASH FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE!
HIS WEAPON'S USELESS AGAINST THAT THING!
WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM!
KA-THOOM!
HE MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE...
LOOK!
WHILE ON THE GROUND...
HAWKMEN! THEY MUST HAVE HEARD THE GUNFIRE!
THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!
IF I CAN ONLY HOLD OUT A FEW SECONDS LONGER!
BUT AS FLASH BREAKS THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH...
NO... IT CAN'T BE!
THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN!
NEXT: DEAD END!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are likely to meet some influential people who may help you grow your business. You may expect some big orders from overseas clients, which will increase your liquidity in the business. Your prestige may be increased now. Your bonding with the boss may become strong. You may also expect some promotions because of your hard work.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are likely to be happy and calm. With the help of your elder's blessings, you may think more patiently. You may plan to visit some spiritual place to seek peace of mind. You may also donate some amount to a spiritual place for development. There may be some chances for overseas travel.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull. You may also have some health issues, which are likely to affect your day at work. You may be attracted to the occult. You may find yourself under mysterious fear, which may make you sensitive and emotional. You are advised to avoid rush-hour driving and adventure tours. You are also advised to visit some religious places.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, a blessing from the moon may make you happy. You may help needy people. You are likely to analyse yourself and accept mistakes in your personal life. Your faith in your relationship with the spouse is likely to improve, which may boost your confidence in your relationship. Disagreements between partners may be resolved now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel healthy and happy. Old health issues may be resolved now. You may be likely to win some litigation. You have full control over your opponents and business rivals. Your money, which was stuck, is likely to be recovered now, which may boost your liquidity. You may likely get new responsibilities at work, which will give you benefits in the near future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today may be mixed. With the help of wisdom, you may be able to settle disputes in business and social life. You may be busy with kids' issues, and couples may be likely to welcome a new baby. Those couples who are trying for a child can hear some good news. Students may plan for an overseas education. Natives who are in jobs may make some plans for higher studies for a good career.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel disappointed at work; you will not be able to enjoy your life at any moment. You may face some losses in property matters. It is advised to postpone investments for a while; otherwise, you may face losses. You are also advised to take care of your parents' health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, at the start of the day, you may not be focused on your work, but with the help of an elder's blessing, you may be able to control this messy situation. You may easily find the resources that might be important for the completion of the project. Your sources of income are likely to increase, and your losses may be converted into profits, which may boost your financial health.

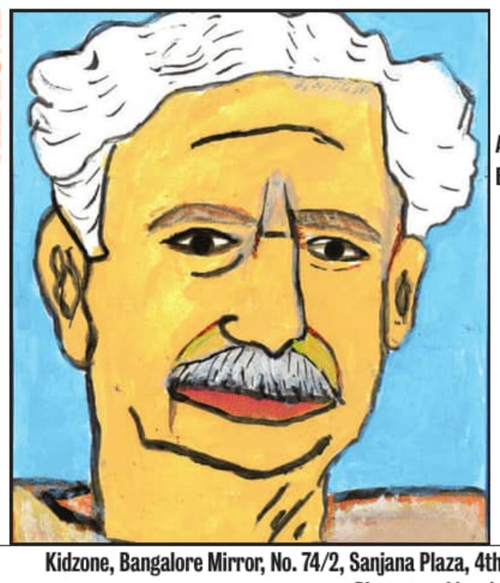
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You are likely to have inner strength; you may be able to make some difficult decisions at work. You may be busy with social get-togethers, which may expand your network. Your network may be beneficial in the near future in terms of work. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy with your family. You may spend money on buying some artefacts and creative stuff to renovate your house. Kids' education may make you upset, and you may also plan to go on short trips for their academics. You are advised to avoid any type of addiction; otherwise, it may create some disturbance in domestic life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon. With the help of courage, you may be able to make good plans and likely implement them efficiently. You are advised to control overexcitement, or you may likely make some mistakes. You are advised to read documents before submitting your signature. Your rivals and opponents are now under control.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your old health issues may arise again. Anxiety and restlessness may make you upset. You may likely become unfocused on your goals. You may waste your precious time doing worthless tasks. You are advised to control your spending on worthless stuff; it may affect your financial health.

KIDZONE



Anushika, Bengaluru

Akhilesh, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$= 3^{-1/2} \times (5^3)^{-1/2} \times 5^{-1/2} \times (3^3)^{-1/2} \times (3 \times 5)^{-1/2}$
$= 3^{-1/2} \times (5) \times 5^{-1/2} \times (3) \times 3^{-1/2} \times 5^{-1/2}$
$= (3^{-1/2} \times 3^{-1/2}) \times 3 \times 5 \times (5^{-1/2} \times 5^{-1/2})$
$= (3) \times 3 \times 5 \times (5)$
$= 3^2 \times 5^2 = (3 \times 5)^2 = 15^2 = 225$

RIDDLER Your name or your phone number

BULL'S EYE arose, ashore, horse, hose, host, oath, orate, other, roast, rose, rote, shoat, shoe, shore, short, shot, soar, sore, sort, store, those, tore

FAST FIVE

C	L	A	D	S
U	L	T	R	A
B	A	T	I	K
I	N	A	N	E
C	O	R	K	S

STRIKE OUT

L	I	E	S		P	O	P		L	A	I	D		
A		L		A		U		G		I				
N	U	D	G	E	D		N	A	B	O	B	S		
C		E		M	M	D	I		V		U		I	
E	U	R	O	P	A		C	A	F	T	A	N		
C		S	K	I		I		L	I		I		F	
O			A	R	A	B	I	A	N				E	
R		E	P	I		O		N	E	B			C	
P	A	N	I	C		S	C	R	I	P	T			
O		C		A	L	E	P	H		D			A	
R	E	A	L	L	Y		R	E	A	D	O	N		
A		M		L		A		E		E		T		
L	A	P	P		Y	E	T		A	R	C	S		

QUICK

S	L	E	E	P	Y		G	E	T	S	B			
I		L		U				S		E		L		
B	A	D	E	G	G		Y	A	N	K	E	D		
I		N		U	N	C	L	E		I		E		
H		I	N	D	I		F		A	B	U	T		
S		W		D	E	R	E	K				A		
E	A	S	Y		N		E		A	C	R	E		
U		C	R	E	P	T		I		H				
D	A	L	I		B		T	I	G	H	T			
I		A	N	N	U	M		R		A				
S	U	D	O	K	U		B	E	T	R	A	Y		
E		I		L			L		Y		O			
R	I	T	U	A	L		T	E	M	P	T	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
25. Starting on the left, halve the first number and add it to the second number to give the next one along. Repeat this sequence all the way to the right.

QUOTE UNCODE
We can't plan life. All we can do is be available for it.

SUDOKU

2	8	3	5	6	7	4	9	1
1	5	6	9	4	2	7	3	8
9	4	7	3	8	1	2	5	6
7	2	4	8	5	6	3	1	9
5	6	9	4	1	3	8	7	2
3	1	8	2	7	9	4	6	5
4	9	5	6	3	8	1	2	7
8	3	1	7	2	5	6	9	4
6	7	2	1	9	4	5	8	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Ag, Tag, Toga, Got at, Tautog, Tugboat.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 7 – 1 + 1 = 11
Medium
2 – 9 + 8 + 4 = 5
Hard
9 + 6 + 5 + 7 = 27

LOOP

KAKURO

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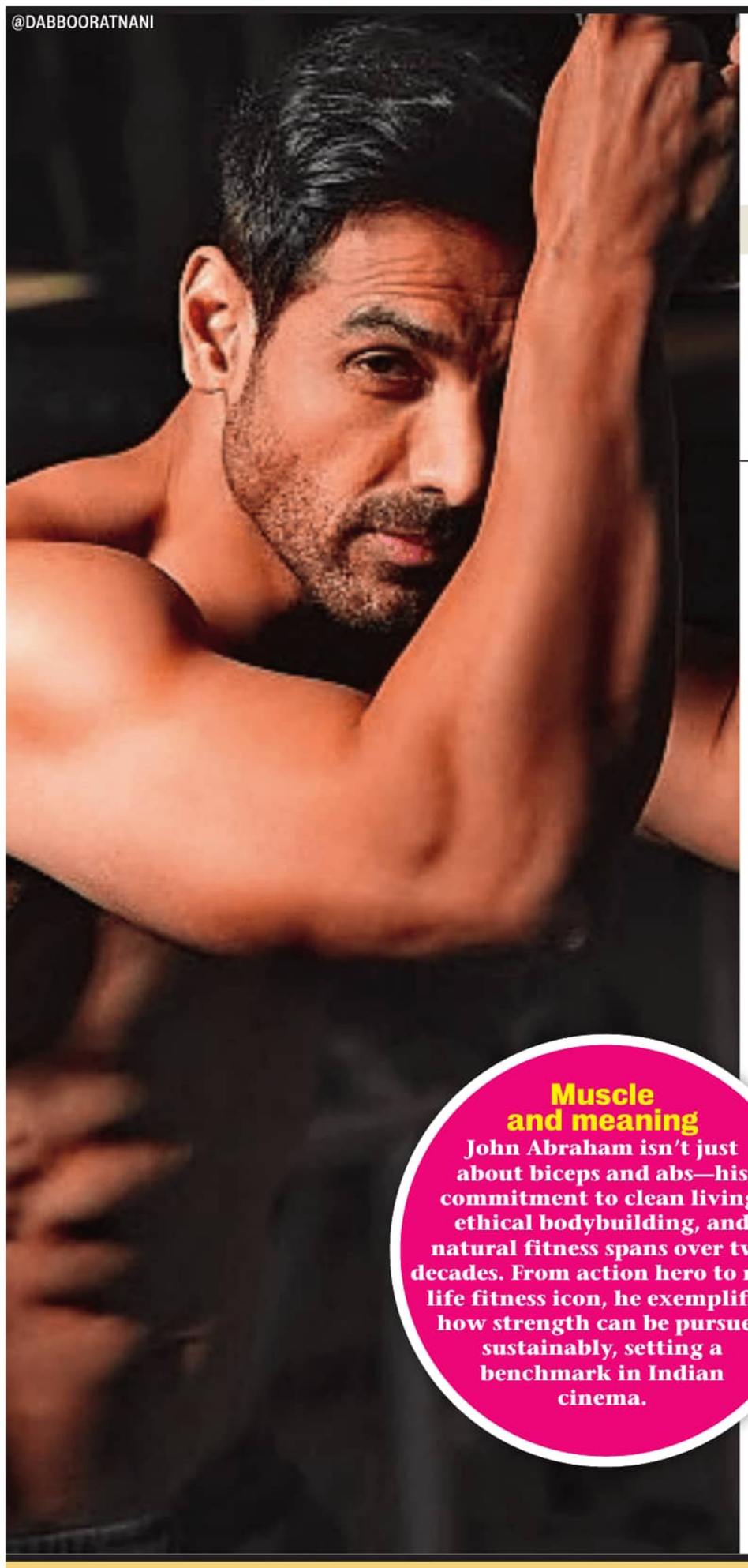
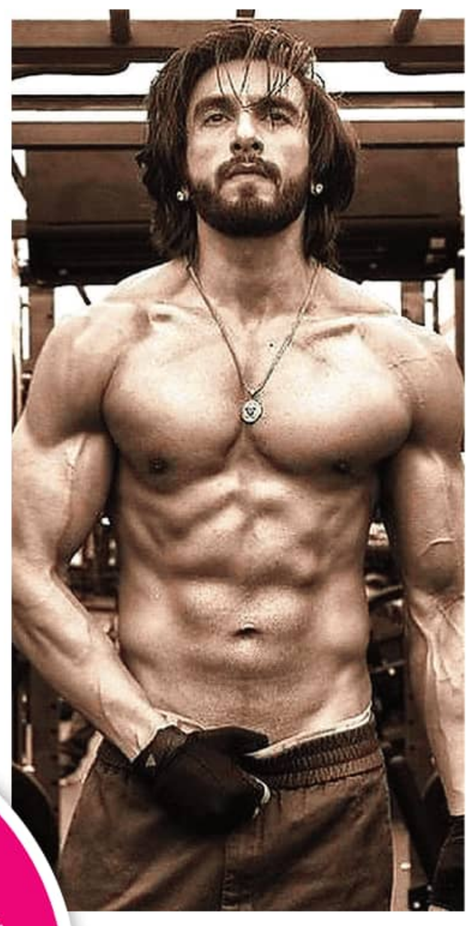


SCULPTING IT AWAY

Bollywood leading men who redefine fitness and finesse

These actors don't just play heroes on screen. They take their fitness regimen quite seriously in real-life too.

—Sonal Khandelwal / ETimes.in



Muscle and meaning

John Abraham isn't just about biceps and abs—his commitment to clean living, ethical bodybuilding, and natural fitness spans over two decades. From action hero to real-life fitness icon, he exemplifies how strength can be pursued sustainably, setting a benchmark in Indian cinema.

Maverick muscle game

Ranveer Singh pairs eclectic energy with evolving body goals. From Padmaavat to Simmba, his transformations are backed by sharp training strategies and fearless style. Whether bulking up or leaning down, he blends physical metamorphosis with persona, creating a new blueprint for fitness-led stardom.

Boxing revival champion

From actor to athlete, Farhan Akhtar's boxing preparation for Toofan showcased intense dedication. His chiselled physique, strict discipline, and realistic performance brought new energy to Bollywood's portrayal of athletes, inspiring fans and fitness enthusiasts alike with a balanced mix of grit and grace.

Greek God gains

Known for his sculpted body, Hrithik Roshan has pushed fitness boundaries throughout his career. Whether battling scoliosis or transforming for War, his journey reflects not just genetics but commitment, intelligent training, and mental resilience. He's the embodiment of elegance wrapped in raw power.

Compact powerhouse persona

Kunal Khemu may fly under the radar, but his workout routines and aesthetic gains are elite. Proving that height or hype isn't essential for impact, his gym selfies and disciplined regimens resonate with anyone aiming for lean muscle and long-term fitness goals.

Bombastic, not fantastic

The much-delayed and hyped multi-lingual movie Hari Hara Veeramallu has arrived at theaters. The movie's release was put off by five years due to various reasons including the pandemic. Its shooting began under the guidance of director Krish Jagarlamudi but he had to exit. Later, Jyothi Krishna, the son of well-known producer AM Rathnam, took the responsibility of completing the shooting. The result: The tonal and dramatic disparities are evident between the pre and post-intermissions. The failure of the directors to translate the potential of the core premise of the movie to the screen is its undoing.

The plot revolves around a king entrusting a well-known fugitive with a task to reclaim a priceless diamond. The movie begins with Veera Mallu attacking officers from the British East India Company and recovering diamonds from them. Impressed by Veera Mallu's skills in stealing diamonds, a king (Sachin Khedekar), assigns him to steal diamonds that are being sent to Golconda Nawab. Veera Mallu meets Panchami (Nidhi Agerwal), a devadasi, and falls in love with her. Panchami pleads with Veera Mallu to save her from the king, who wants to keep her as his mistress. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Veera Mallu and whether or he reaches Golconda or not.

As far as the performances of actors are concerned, Pawan Kalyan has worked hard but fails to meet the expectations of the audiences, including his hardcore fans. He looks good in action scenes but too much glorification and computer graphics have played spoilsport. Action scenes, especially those of the hero and heroine jumping from one building to another and flying like kites to escape from enemies, are too far-fetched. It is not clear what the director was hoping to achieve with such scenes. Nidhi Agerwal looks good, but has no chance to showcase her acting skills. Bobby Deol, as Aurangzeb, is convincing. Sathyaraj, Nassar, Subbaraju, Raghu Babu give good support.

Music by MM Keeravani is not up to the mark. Art director Thota Tharani has done a commendable job.

If you have nothing much to do, you can watch this film..

—Y Maheswara Reddy

HARI HARA VEERA MALLU – PART 1

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Jyothi Krishna
- **ACTORS** Pawan Kalyan, Nidhi Agerwal, Bobby Deol, Sathyaraj, Sunil, Nassar, Subbaraju
- **Duration** 163 minutes
- **Certification** U/A